


# Dear Bishop Hogan:

## Some of the Hundreds of Letters He Has Received on His Resignation




**VATICAN BULLETIN**

**28 November**

The Holy Father received in audience: His Eminence Cardinal Silvio Oddi; His Beatitude Hemiagh Pierre XVII, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians; Their Excellencies: — Most Rev. Andrea Pangrazio, Archbishop-Bishop of Porto and Santa Rufina, Delegate for the Italian Seminaries; — Most Rev. Vincent Martin Leonard, Bishop of Pittsburgh (USA).

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation presented in conformity with the decree "Christus Dominus" of: — His Excellency Most Rev. Richard H. Ackerman, C.S.Sp., from the government of the diocese of Covington (USA); — His Excellency Most Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, from the government of the diocese of Rochester (USA); — His Excellency Most Rev. Joseph M. Pernicone, from the office of Auxiliary Bishop of New York (USA).

### Holy Father Sends Thanks



SACRA CONGREGAZIONE PER I VESCOVI

Rome, November 28, 1978

Dear Bishop Hogan,

In accepting your resignation from the see of Rochester, the Holy Father directed me to express to you the assurance of his prayers for your health and well-being.

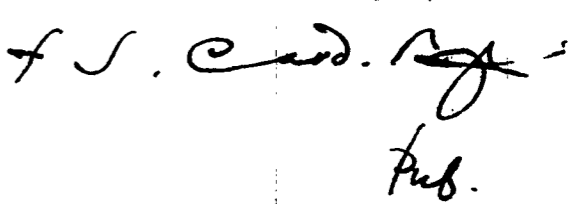
His Holiness is deeply appreciative of your concern for the people of your diocese that led you to ask to be relieved of your responsibilities because of the continual deterioration of your health. Such a step could only be taken with a profound love in imitation of that of the Good Shepherd. The Holy Father gives thanks to Almighty God for the love and concern that you have thus shown and that has been at the root of your ministry to the Church in Rochester as its Bishop these last nine years.

His Holiness is pleased with your intention to continue to serve the diocese and your successor with obedience and with all the strength you have. He prays that you will always draw joy and peace from the ministry that has been yours and will be yours in the years to come.

With fraternal affection he imparts to you his Apostolic Blessing.

I take this occasion to assure you of my prayers as well and with sentiments of high esteem and warm regard, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



S. Cardinal Baggio  
Prefect,  
Sacred Congregation for Bishops

### Where God Seems A Little Closer

Dear Bishop Hogan,

I hear by remote control that you are ailing. I hope it is wrong.

But just in case it is true, I herewith submit a program I know will appeal to you.

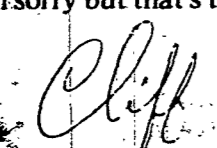
Let's you and I pack up — two aging 6-foot-6-inch giants — and head for Rio. There, let us hire a bush pilot and fly far inland to Cachoerira Alta. Remember the places. They are so far back that God seems to be a little closer. Once there, let's find a simple restaurant with a tiny bar at one end and a humble little bartender who doesn't know how to fix a good manhattan. And we'll teach him.

And then at night maybe we can dragoon a few nuns to perform magic on their guitars; and the stars will come down a little closer to listen. It was good and rich and wonderful, wasn't it?

One of my treasures is a violent little essay written by Leo Rosten, an attack on that hallmark of today's lifestyle symbolized by the expression "Have fun!" We were not put on this earth to have fun, said Rosten. We were put on this earth to have our lives mean something; to leave the earth a tiny bit better than when we were born.

On that basis, you qualify!

My love to you, Big Joe — and if that's irreverence, I'm sorry but that's the way I want to say it.



Clifford E. Carpenter

Clifford E. Carpenter is the former editor of the editorial page of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. He accompanied Bishop Hogan on a tour of Rochester missions in Latin America in 1970.

### DPC Salute

Dear Bishop Hogan,

On behalf of the membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, I would like to join the long line of those in the Church and the civil community who are passing in review to salute you, wish you well and say "well done, good and faithful servant."

It has been our unique privilege to work with you, as you implemented into the Church of Christ in Rochester the dynamism in the documents of Vatican Council II.

Our hearts are full of thanks:

We thank you for having a dream, you called it your "fondest hope," of a Pastoral Council that allowed us to serve the Church;

We thank you for your presence at our meetings, that did so much to support and sustain us as we struggled with the pressing issues of our time;

We thank you for speaking out so frequently on issues of social justice, stands that constantly reminded us that our deliberations had to encompass not only the Church but also the needs of society;

We thank you for providing us with the solid concrete doctrine found in your Pastoral Letters and Focus statement, these pronouncements have been a useful evaluative tool for our deliberations;

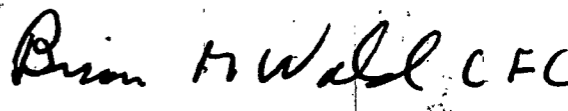
We thank you for your style of leadership, that treated each of us as the unique incarnation that we are, a style of leadership that provided great hope, great love and great confidence, that in truth, we were the "living stones" of which the Church is built.

The disappointment that we feel at your retirement is overshadowed by our delight that after nine years of "rejoicing with those who rejoiced and weeping with those who wept" you will be afforded the time and energy to restore your own health. We delight in the fact that you will be remaining in the diocese to share our joys and our sorrows. We delight in the fact that your experience, expertise and unique vision will be available to our new ordinary.

Be assured that our prayers in the months and years ahead will be ones of thanksgiving for the opportunities for growth you have provided each of us; of petition for the return of your health and your sustenance; of praise that the Lord provided us in the Church of Rochester with a bishop, so obviously close to Himself, during the trying times of the 1960s and 70s.

For the "living stones" of your "fondest hope," I am,

Sincerely,



Brother Brian M. Walsh  
Chairperson  
Diocesan Pastoral Council

### Divorced, Separateds Meet in Auburn

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "The holiday season is one of the most difficult times of the year for the divorced, separated or widowed person, but it doesn't have to be," was the message delivered recently by Sister Kathleen Kircher, SSJ.

Sister Kathleen, diocesan coordinator for ministry to divorced, separated and remarried Catholics, was addressing an Auburn area group at a supper at St. Mary's School.

Sister Kathleen said "We are talking about a time of year we are expected to be merry and for the most part people are not having a good time. There is not enough money for the toys children expect or warm feelings at the family get-togethers. People are working under an overload."

"This is a difficult dimension for the divorced, separated and widowed who have known this as a time for a whole family activity. It is filled with nostalgia or bitterness. It is a hard time, for it will never be the same once one has experienced a loss," she said.

Sister Kathleen said that one way to counteract these feelings is to become involved in organizations designed for the divorced and separated.

"Conversations with one another about how it felt to anticipate the holidays alone for the first time are important. Groups can bring people together to talk about their feelings. It does help. You can share things that one needs to get out," she said.

The Auburn Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed Organization is now building from a core group of 8-10 people who have been meeting bi-weekly since spring to develop their own sense of community by praying and sharing together.

ST. BERNARD'S SEMINARY  
2240 LAKE AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK  
SUNDAY EUCHARIST 11:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY VESPERS 5:00 P.M.  
Public is Cordially Invited